In the Claims

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 7, wherein each project definition comprises a plurality of ordered tasks for developing the product associated with the project definition, each task comprising a time requirement, a resource requirement, and an ordering constraint with respect to the other tasks in the project definition.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 7, wherein a candidate product includes at least two project definitions, the method comprising selecting one of the at least two project definitions in the development schedule for generating the development schedule.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 15, wherein the project definitions comprise a plurality of ordered tasks, with each task containing a time requirements, a resource requirement, and an ordering constraint with respect to the other tasks in the project definition.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 15, wherein:
        a candidate product comprises at least two project definitions; and
        the planning engine selects one of the at least two project definitions for inclusion in the development schedule.

7.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 1, wherein~~ A computer-implemented method for selecting a portfolio of products to be developed, the method performed using a computer system comprising one or more processing units and one or more memory units, the method comprising:

using the computer system, selecting a set of candidate products to be developed;

using the computer system, calculating a set of financial projections for each candidate product, the set of financial projections for a candidate product providing a future profit determination for each of a set of possible product introduction dates for the candidate product;

using the computer system, for each candidate product, determining based on the set of financial projections an impact that the time of introduction has on profits associated with the candidate product;

using the computer system, providing at least one project definition for each candidate product, such project definitions each including a development schedule and resource requirements;

using the computer system, providing a set of available resources; and

using the computer system, generating a development schedule from the set of candidate products to maximize profit based at least on the determined impact that the time of introduction has on profits associated with each of the candidate products and using the financial projections for the candidate products ~~are used~~ as a weighted factor in generating the development schedule such that products more affected by time are scheduled for faster production than products less affected by time, the development schedule providing for product development in accordance with project definitions for each of the candidate products and resource constraints.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 7, further comprising:

determining, based at least on the sets of financial projections for the candidate products, which products would generate the greatest profits; and

prioritizing the candidate products that would generate the greatest profits in generating the development schedule.

9.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the ordering constraint defines a sequence for the plurality of ordered tasks, the sequence providing one or more of the following:

certain tasks must be completed before other tasks; and

certain tasks may be completed in parallel with certain other tasks.

10.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein generating the development schedule comprises enforcing the ordering constraint when scheduling development of products.

11.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein at least one project definition comprises one or more phases for development of the associated candidate product, each phase comprising one or more of the plurality of ordered tasks.

12.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, further comprising assigning a probability of completion to each of the one or more phases, the probability of completion for use in allocating resources when generating the development schedule in accordance with the project definitions and the resource constraints.

13.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12, further comprising, for each phase of product development, multiplying resources required for the phase by a product of the probability of completion for the phase and the probabilities of completion for all preceding phases.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 7, further comprising generating as an output a projected profit number in addition to the development schedule.

15.   (Currently Amended) ~~The system of Claim 4, wherein~~ A system for selecting a portfolio of products to be developed, comprising:

a set of candidate products;

a set of financial projections associated with each candidate product, the set of financial projections for a candidate product providing a plurality of profit projections for each of a set of possible introduction dates for the candidate product;

a set of project definitions, at least one project definition associated with each candidate product, each of such project definitions comprising a development schedule and resource requirements;

a set of available resources; and

a planning engine for reading in the set of candidate products, the sets of financial projections for the candidate products, the sets of project definitions for the candidate products, and the set of available resources, for selecting a set of candidate products that meets all resource availability constraints and maximizes profits, and for generating a development schedule for the selected set of candidate products, the financial projections for the candidate products ~~are~~ being used by the planning engine as a weighted-factor in generating the development schedule such that products more affected by time are scheduled for faster production than products less affected by time.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 15, wherein the planning engine is operable to:

determine, based at least on the sets of financial projections for the candidate products, which products would generate the greatest profits; and

prioritize the candidate products that would generate the greatest profits in generating the development schedule.

17.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 5, wherein the ordering constraint defines a sequence for the plurality of ordered tasks, the sequence providing one or more of the following:

certain tasks must be completed before other tasks; and

certain tasks may be completed in parallel with certain other tasks.

18.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 5, wherein the planning engine is operable to, in generating the development schedule, enforce the ordering constraint when scheduling development of products.

19.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 5, wherein at least one project definition comprises one or more phases for development of the associated candidate product, each phase comprising one or more of the plurality of ordered tasks.

20.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 19, further comprising a probability of completion assigned to each of the one or more phases, the probability of completion for use by the planning engine in allocating resources when selecting the set of candidate products that meets all resource constraints and maximizes profits.

21.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 20, wherein the planning engine is operable to, for each phase of product development, multiply resources required for the phase by a product of the probability of completion for the phase and the probabilities of completion for all preceding phases.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 15, wherein the planning engine is further operable to generate as an output a projected profit number in addition to the development schedule.

23.   (Cancelled)

24.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 23~~ Claim 26, wherein each project definition comprises a plurality of ordered tasks for developing the product associated with the project definition, each task comprising a time requirement, a resource requirement, and an ordering constraint with respect to the other tasks in the project definition.

25.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 23~~ Claim 26, wherein a candidate product includes at least two project definitions, the software operable to select one of the at least two project definitions in the development schedule for generating the development schedule.

26.   (Currently Amended) ~~The software of Claim 23, further operable to~~ Software for selecting a portfolio of products to be developed, the software being embodied in computer-readable media and when executed by a computer system operable to:

select a set of candidate products to be developed;

calculate a set of financial projections for each candidate product, the set of financial projections for a candidate product providing a future profit determination for each of a set of possible product introduction dates for the candidate product;

for each candidate product, determine based on the set of financial projections an impact that the time of introduction has on profits associated with the candidate product;

provide at least one project definition for each candidate product, such project definitions each including a development schedule and resource requirements;

provide a set of available resources; and

generate a development schedule from the set of candidate products to maximize profit based at least on the determined impact that the time of introduction has on profits associated with each of the candidate products and using ~~use~~ the financial projections for the candidate products as a weighted factor in generating the development schedule such that products more affected by time are scheduled for faster production than products less affected by time, the development schedule providing for product development in accordance with project definitions for each of the candidate products and resource constraints.

27.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 23~~ Claim 26, further operable to:

determine, based at least on the sets of financial projections for the candidate products, which products would generate the greatest profits; and

prioritize the candidate products that would generate the greatest profits in generating the development schedule.

28.   (Previously presented) The software of Claim 24, wherein the ordering constraint defines a sequence for the plurality of ordered tasks, the sequence providing one or more of the following:

certain tasks must be completed before other tasks; and

certain tasks may be completed in parallel with certain other tasks.

29.   (Previously presented) The software of Claim 24, further operable to, in generating the development schedule, enforce the ordering constraint when scheduling development of products.

30.   (Previously presented) The software of Claim 24, wherein at least one project definition comprises one or more phases for development of the associated candidate product, each phase comprising one or more of the plurality of ordered tasks.

31.   (Previously presented) The software of Claim 30, further operable to assign a probability of completion to each of the one or more phases, the probability of completion for use in allocating resources when generating the development schedule in accordance with the project definitions and the resource constraints.

32.   (Previously presented) The software of Claim 31, further operable to, for each phase of product development, multiply resources required for the phase by a product of the probability of completion for the phase and the probabilities of completion for all preceding phases.

33.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 23~~ Claim 26, further operable to generate as an output a projected profit number in addition to the development schedule.

34.   (Currently Amended) A system for selecting a portfolio of products to be developed, comprising:

means for selecting a set of candidate products to be developed;

means for calculating a set of financial projections for each candidate product, the set of financial projections for a candidate product providing a future profit determination for each of a set of possible product introduction dates for the candidate product;

means for each candidate product, determining based on the set of financial projections an impact that the time of introduction has on profits associated with the candidate product;

means for providing at least one project definition for each candidate product, such project definitions each including a development schedule and resource requirements;

means for providing a set of available resources; and

means for generating a development schedule from the set of candidate products to maximize profit based at least on the determined impact that the time of introduction has on profits associated with each of the candidate products and using the financial projections for the candidate products as a weighted factor in generating the development schedule such that products more affected by time are scheduled for faster production than products less affected by time, the development schedule providing for product development in accordance with project definitions for each of the candidate products and resource constraints.